

REPLY TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION
DATED AUGUST 22, 2007

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Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1 (currently amended). An insulation module for a process vessel for containing a material to be maintained within controlled temperature limits for use in a process including:

an externally mounted pre-fabricated panel having integrally formed therein an outer surface layer and a thermal insulation layer, the thermal insulation layer opposing a portion of the outer wall of the process vessel;

mounting means extending from the panel for mounting the panel on the outer wall of the process vessel at a distance therefrom to define an air gap between the panel and the outer wall of the process vessel when the insulation module is mounted relative thereto, there being no intervening insulation layer mounted on said outer wall between said outer wall and said panel; and

wherein the panel is directly mounted to the outer wall of the process vessel by the mounting means which include a plurality of brackets secured to the outer surface layer of said panel, said brackets extending towards and being securable directly to the outer wall of the process vessel.

2 (original). The insulation module of claim 1 wherein said insulation layer is a fibrous material treated to prevent escape of fibres.

Claims 3-18 (canceled).

19 (previously presented). The insulation module of claim 1 wherein said insulation layer is retained between the outer surface layer and a support mesh.

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20 (currently amended). The insulation module of claim 19 wherein a fastener ~~the fastening system~~ extends between the outer surface layer through the insulation layer to the supporting mesh, said fastener retaining said insulation layer between said outer surface layer and said support mesh.

21 (previously presented). The insulation layer of claim 1 wherein said fastening components include a least one fixing screw.

22 (previously presented). The insulation layer of claim 21 wherein a speed clip member is secured to a free end of said at least one fixing screw.

23 (previously presented). The insulation module of claim 1 wherein the insulation layer is adhered directly to the outer surface layer of said panel.

Claim 24 (canceled).

25 (previously presented). The insulation module of claim 1 wherein each bracket includes a mounting leg for supporting the panel of the insulation module away from the outer wall of the process vessel.

26 (previously presented). The insulation module of claim 25 wherein said vessel has a series of cleats provided about the outer wall thereof and said mounting legs of said brackets are secured to said cleats.

27 (previously presented). The insulation module of claim 25 wherein the fastening means secure said bracket mounting legs to the vessel wall.

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28 (previously presented). The insulation module of claim 27 wherein said fastening means are thread rod stubs and each bracket mounting leg includes at least one laterally extending foot having at least one opening therethrough to accommodate respective thread rod stubs.

29 (previously presented). The insulation module of claim 1 wherein said insulation layer is of material selected from the group consisting of rock wool, fibreglass, PIR foam, PUR foam and mixtures thereof.

30 (previously presented). The insulation module of claim 2 wherein said insulation layer is retained between the outer surface layer and a support mesh.

31 (previously presented). The insulation layer of claim 30 wherein the fastening system extends between the outer surface layer through the insulation layer to the supporting mesh.

32 (previously presented). A method of installing insulation on a process vessel including mounting a plurality of insulation modules, each as claimed in claim 1, in an abutting or closely adjacent relationship on an outer wall of the vessel, each insulation module including a panel having an outer surface layer, and an insulation layer secured to the outer surface layer, and mounting means extending from the panel for mounting the insulation module on an outer wall of the vessel, wherein the method includes securing the mounting means to the vessel to thereby provide an air gap between the insulation layer and the outer wall of the vessel when the insulation modules are mounted relative thereto.

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33 (previously presented). The method of claim 32 wherein said insulation layer is of fibrous material treated to prevent release of fibres.

34 (previously presented). The method of claim 33 wherein said fibrous material is treated with a sealing agent, optionally an acrylic emulsion.

35 (previously presented). The method of claim 32 wherein said outer surface of said vessel includes the outer surface of a conical section of the vessel.

36 (previously presented). A process vessel insulated in accordance with the method of claim 32.